

Message Text

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14

ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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----- 069106

R 122112Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 136648

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CB, US, UR

SUBJ: POSSIBLE SHIFT IN SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARD SIHANOUK

REFS: A. PHNOM PENH 6971; B. BUCHAREST 2545; C. HONG KONG

6820; D. MOSCOW 8010

1. DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN MOST INTERESTED BY REPORTS CONTAINED IN REFTELS RE POSSIBLE SHIFT IN SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARD SIHANOUK. WE ARE NOT SURPRISED SINCE SOVIETS, WHILE MAINTAINING AN EMBASSY AT CHARGE LEVEL IN PHNOM PENH, HAVE CAUTIOUSLY MAINTAINED CONTACT WITH SIHANOUK REPRESENTATIVES. WE TEND TO VIEW PRESENT SIGNS AS INDICATION THAT USSR FORSEES POSSIBLE RETURN TO POWER BY SIHANOUK AND THEREFORE A DESIRE NOT TO BE LEFT IN TOO UNFAVORABLE A POSITION SHOULD
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THIS HAPPEN. SOVIETS HAVE PROBABLY NOTED SIHANOUK'S AP-

PARENT INCREASE IN STRENGTH INTERNATIONALLY AND VIS-A-VIS
HANOI AND THE KHMER INSURGENTS, AS WELL AS CURRENT PRESS
RUMORS REGARDING EVENTUAL POSSIBLE US TALKS WITH HIM.

2. WHILE PRESENT SOVIET MOVES TO NOT APPEAR TO INDI-
CATE AN IMMINENT DECISION TO RECOGNIZE SIHANOUK AND GRUNK,
WE SHALL NEED TO MONITOR THIS CLOSELY IN VIEW OF CREDEN-
TIALS ISSUE CERTAIN TO ARISE IN NEXT UNGA. ROGERS

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